

# Lowell WUI Project Fact Sheet

- Lowell, Idaho, is a small community surrounded by dense forest. Pockets of insect and disease-killed trees have created heavy fuel loads. Lowell is a Federal Register listed “community at risk” and Idaho County has developed a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for it.
- Lowell residents have been heavily impacted by fire in the past several years. Residents were evacuated in 2014 during the Johnson Bar fire and again in 2015 during the Slide and Wash fires. Currently the Andy’s Hump fire is three miles from the community.
- Heavy fuel loads in the surrounding forest led to uncontrollable fire behavior and severely hampered suppression efforts during these fires. Meanwhile, in 2015, firefighters used the nearby Interface Fuels units to successfully defend the neighboring community of Syringa and demonstrated the value of fuels-reduction projects.
- The Lowell WUI project is designed to reduce hazardous fuels within the Wildland Urban Interface and to improve forest health to increase resiliency and reduce future tree mortality due to insects and disease.



Douglas fir beetle mortality in project area



Landscape views of Lowell WUI project area in 1934 and 2013 demonstrate current contiguous forested conditions.

- The interdisciplinary team involved a variety of interests during the development of the project, including the local community, Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho Roadless Commission, and Clearwater Basin Collaborative. Input from these and many other stakeholders were carefully considered in order to provide a well-balanced decision that addresses community safety needs while maintaining the integrity of the Wild and Scenic Rivers and Idaho Roadless area.
- The project area will treat 166 acres within the Lowell Community Protection Zone (CPZ) on the Lochsa-Powell and Moose Creek Ranger Districts.
- A portion of the project is within the Rackliff-Gendey Idaho Roadless Area. The Idaho Roadless Rule specifically permits harvest to reduce hazardous fuels in CPZs as long as large trees are retained as appropriate to the site.
- Lowell WUI borders the Middle Fork Clearwater Lochsa-Selway Wild and Scenic River Corridor. The project was carefully designed to protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values of the designated corridor. Design measures include reducing the number of skyline corridors and skid trails in visually-sensitive areas and emulating natural openings and patterns.

For more information:

Visit the Lowell WUI Project website  
[www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=44773](http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=44773)